No amount has been written off as bad and doubtful debt.

As regards Dasturs there name does not figure in the list of top industrial houses.

NHB Assistance to Bihar for Construction and Repair of Houses

758 SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Housing Bank, Bombay has provided assistance for construction and repair of houses in Bihar during the last six months;

(b) if so, what is the amount so provided;

(c) whether Bihar Government have utilised it, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) National Housing Bank (NHB) provides refinance to scheduled banks, Housing Finance Institutions (HFIs) and State Level Apex Cooperative housing finance societies in respect of eligible loans, as per the guidelines of NHB, disbursed by them. As at the end of March, 1992, the cumulative disbursement under NHB's refinance scheme to eligible primary lenders together with subscription to special rural housing debentures floated by State Level Land Development, Banks amounted to Rs. 938.73 crores. In addition ad-hoc financial assistance of Rs. 20.74 crores was also provided to three Housing Finance Companies and Agricultural Rural Development Banks. The present reporting system of NHB does not generate State-wise data in this regard.

Institutional Finance to Tobacco Exporters

759. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total requirement of institutional finance of tobacco exporters and how much of it has been fulfilled; and

(b) what are the details of the steps being taken to fill up the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The information as sought is not collected by either the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) or financial institutions. However, RBI have stated that as per the information made available to the Tobacco Board by the Indian Tobacco Association, the export trade is in need of a total of Rs. 235 cr. from the banking sector for the 1992 Andhra Pradesh Tobacco crop season.

(b) The problems of tobacco trade in relation to credit requirements from banks are kept under continuous review by the RBI. Yearly meetings of the Consultative Comimttee on Tobacco Export Finance, constituted by RBI, are also held to discuss these matters. In August, 1991, RBI had convened a meeting of this Committee to specifically discuss additional credit limits needed by the tobacco exporters to meet the increased export target for the year 1992-93. The Banks engaged in financing tobacco trade present in the meeting were advised that genuine credit requirements of the tobacco exporters, including the additional credit limits needed in the context of higher crop size and increased demand in the global market, should be met.

Persuant to issue of communications, by the Chairman of the Tobacco Board to the Chief Executives of Banks, RBI again advised major banks to ensure that genuine credit needs of tobacco exporters are provided.

New Fiscal Policy for Handlooms

760. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by his Ministry to formulate a fiscal policy that will remove the cost handicap of the handlooms *vis-a-vis* powerlooms; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR)): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The tax concessions extended to the handloom sector include : complete exemption from excise duty on plain reel cotton hank yarn and jute hank yarn ; on certain types of polyester blended yarn purchased by State Handloom Development Corporations ; concessional rate of excise duty on polyester filament yarn used in the production of polyester fabrics under a programme approved by Development Commissioner Handlooms and complete exemption from custom duty on the raw wool imported into India by a registered apex handloom cooperative society or a State Handloom Development Corporation, etc. These concessions are not available to the Powerloom sector.

Shortage of Currency Notes

761. SHRI J. P. JAVALI :
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that demand for currency notes of various denominations is more than the supply by Reserve Bank of India ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, denominationwise ; and

(c) what are the reasons for the same and what action is being taken to overcome shortage of currency notes of various denominations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The denomination-wise indent-supply details for the last two years (April-March) are as follows :

(Pieces in millions)

Denomination	1990-91		1991-92	
	Indent	Supply	Indent	Supply
Re. 1/-	350	440	—	254
Rs. 2/-	1300	1549	1100	279
Rs. 5/-	1600	1287	950	1646
Rs. 10/-	3000	994	3000	1057
Rs. 20/-	1000	152	470	54
Rs. 50/-	2200	1011	1800	1307
Rs. 100/-	2700	740	3000	638
Rs. 500/-	100	12	500	7
TOTAL :	12250	6185	10820	5242

(c) The reason for the shortage is the increasing demand of Reserve Bank of India for fresh notes and the limited capacity of the existing units to meet this demand. To bridge the gap between the demand and supply of currency/bank notes, following steps have been taken :—

(1) The existing two note printing presses at Dewas and Nasik have been put on two shifts working.

(2) Two new Note Printing Presses one at Salboni (West Bengal) and the other at Mysore (Karnataka) are being set up by Reserve Bank of India.

(3) A decision has been taken to coinise Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 denomination notes in a phased manner so as to utilise the capacity so released, for printing of higher denomination notes.